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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois developed the world's first juvenile court in 1899, and has consistently been a leader in protecting children and promoting their rights; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is committed to the health, safety, education, and growth of its children and children everywhere; and

WHEREAS, The United States, based on its history and tradition of human rights and responsibilities, must demonstrate its dedication to provide all children with a better today and a better tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, Children in the United States continue to face considerable hardships, including inadequate educational opportunities, and high rates of poverty, abuse, and neglect, hunger, infant mortality, incarceration, adolescent pregnancy, homicide, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, Every child is entitled to the fundamental necessities of life, including the rights to food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education, protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and freedom from discrimination; and

1           WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the government to  
2 ensure that all children and their families receive the level  
3 of support necessary for the realization of these rights; and

4           WHEREAS, Each child, for the full and harmonious  
5 development of his or her personality, should grow up in a  
6 family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and  
7 understanding; and

8           WHEREAS, On November 20, 1989, the United Nations General  
9 Assembly unanimously adopted the Convention on the Rights of  
10 the Child, which was drafted with the specific purpose of  
11 promoting and protection the well-being of all children,  
12 regardless of national boundaries; and

13           WHEREAS, The Convention on the Rights of the Child has been  
14 ratified by 193 nations, who have used this document to guide  
15 the development and implementation of policies and programs  
16 that specifically meet the needs of children and families; and

17           WHEREAS, The United States and Somalia are the only two  
18 nations that are party to the United Nations that have not  
19 ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

20           WHEREAS, The United States formally signed the Convention

1 on the Rights of the Child in 1995, signifying its intent to  
2 ratify the Convention; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
5 call upon all agencies in the State of Illinois, in particular  
6 those concerned with the following activities as they relate to  
7 child welfare - economic opportunity, education, health care,  
8 housing, juvenile justice, nutrition, protection, and  
9 recreation for children - ensure that their policies and  
10 programs comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;  
11 and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That we urge the President of the United States  
13 to submit the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the  
14 Senate Foreign Relations Committee for review; and be it  
15 further

16       RESOLVED, That we urge the Senate of the United States to  
17 ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and be it  
18 further

19       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
20 presented to the President, the Minority and Majority Leaders  
21 of the United States Senate, and United States Senators Dick  
22 Durbin and Roland Burris.